

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 253765
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:DVTREECK:TR
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA GLISTER (INFO)

-----078551 212251Z /64

O R 212225Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 253765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, BA, PA, UR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF THE PRESIDENT, PARAGUAY COLORADO PARTY
IN EXILE

1. ARA/ECA HAS BEEN INFORMED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
OF THE ARREST OF EPIFANIO MENDEZ FLEITAS, AND HIS SON
EPIFANIO MENDEZ. FATHER IS THE PRESIDENT OF PARAGUAYAN
COLORADO PARTY IN EXILE. THE FATHER WENT INTO EXILE
IN MONTEVIDEO IN 1956, WHERE HE RESIDED UNTIL MOVING
TO BUENOS AIRES IN 1973.

2. ON OCTOBER 7 THE FATHER AND SON WENT TO SECTIONAL
SECUNDA IN BUENOS AIRES REGARDING CONFUSION ON A TRAFFIC
TICKET. THEY WERE THEN ARRESTED AND HELD INCOMMUNICADO.
THE FAMILY OBTAINED A WRIT IMMEDIATELY. THE POLICE
ADMITTED THAT THE FATHER AND SON WERE UNDER THE JURIS-
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DICTION OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON.

3. WHILE AT THE POLICE STATION SOMEONE, IDENTITY
UNKNOWN, TOLD THE FAMILY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A KIDNAPPING
ATTEMPT AND THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD RETURN TO THE JAIL
AND TRY AGAIN.

4. FATHER HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN 1976 AND HELD FOR A WEEK
BY ARGENTINE POLICE. CHARGES IN THE 1976 ARREST INVOLVED

ASSOCIATION WITH A DISSIDENT CHILEAN GROUP ON THE CHILE-ARG. BORDER. CHARGES WERE DROPPED WHEN IT WAS PROVEN THAT HE HAD NOT LEFT BUENOS AIRES DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION.

5. PRELIMINARY CHARGES IN THE PRESENT ARREST WERE: ASSOCIATION WITH THE ERP AND WITH PARAGUAYAN WORKERS GROUPS. THE SECOND WRIT THE FAMILY SUBMITTED RESULTED IN THE INFORMATION THAT MENDEZ AND SON WERE AT THE SUPER-INTENDENCIA DE SEGURIDAD FEDERAL IN BUENOS AIRES, STILL UNDER MILITARY JURISDICTION. THE CHARGES HAD BEEN FORMALIZED INTO THEIR BEING MEMBERS OF : THE ERP AND THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIA DE TRABAJADORES.

6. APPARENTLY THE CHARGES INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 5 WERE BASED ON AN ORDER DATING FROM FEBRUARY 1975, ISSUED IN SALTA PROVINCE. THIS ORDER BY THE CHIEF OF THE ARMY IN SALTA REQUIRED THEIR TRANSFER TO THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT IN RESISTENCIA, CHACO PROVINCE. THE FATHER HAS NOT BEEN TO SALTA IN 15 YEARS AND HIS SON HAS NEVER BEEN THERE, THEREFORE ARREST ORDER SEEMS INCONSISTENT.)

7. WHEN THE DETAILED CHARGES WERE GIVEN TO THE FAMILY ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OCTOBER 17 THEY WENT TO THE SUPERINTENDENCIA TO SEE THE FATHER AND SON. THE FAMILY WAS TOLD THAT THEY WERE NOT IN THAT FACILITY AND THAT THE OFFICERS THERE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THEM.

8. THE FAMILY AND AMNESTY FEAR THE FOLLOWING:
A. MISTREATMENT ON THE WAY TO CHACO, IF TRANSFER OCCURED.
B. NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THEM.
C. THEY MAY BE TURNED OVER TO PARAGUAY.

9. U.S. INTEREST; DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW ARE ON THE STAFF AT STANFORD U. SON-IN-LAW IS U.S. CITIZEN AND DAUGHTER IS A PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN. DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES SIGNIFICANT CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS CASE, APPROACHING THE LEVEL OF THE DEUTSCH CASE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATIONS WHICH EMBASSIES ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN.

10. FAMILY ADDRESS: CANGALLO 2647, APT 2, BUENOS AIRES. TELEPHONE 484-292. U.S. RELATIVES TELEPHONE NUMBER 415-969-9490 (HOME), RAY AND TERESA FAITH 415-497-1077 (OFFICE NUMBER FOR RAY FAITH) 415-497-3800 (OFFICE FOR TERESA FAITH) CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 253765
ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 /007 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/ECA:DVANTREECK:RC

APPROVED BY: ARA/ECA:FERONDON

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R 280400Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 253765

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 253765 SENT ACTION BUENOS AIRES
ASUNCION INFO MONTEVIDEO OCT 21.
QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 253765

E.O. 11652: N/A

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, EXILES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF THE PRESIDENT, PARAGUAY COLORADO PARTY
TAGS: SHUM, BA, PA, UR, (MENDEZ FLEITAS, EPIFANIO)
To: BUENOS AIRES ASUNCION MULTIPLE
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